

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 02017 121242Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 NIC-01

SAJ-01 SSO-00 /059 W

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R 121112Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8353

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

EUCOM

USNATO 3509

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 2017

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJECT: THE GOVERNMENT CRISIS - A NEW FORMULA

1. PRIMIN IRMAK, FOLLOWING HIS MARCH 11 MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KORUTURK, TOLD PRESS THAT NEITHER A REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP)-JUSTICE PARTY (JP) COALITION NOR A NATIONALIST FRONT COALITION WITH DEMOCRATIC PARTY (DP) SUPPORT WAS POSSIBLE. HE ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK FOR ANY POSSIBLE COALITION AND THAT DP CHAIRMAN BOZBEYLI HAD PROMISED TO HELP.

2. THE PRIMIN'S CHEF DU CABINET HAS TOLD US THAT IRMAK BELIEVES HE CAN GET AGREEMENT TO A FORMULA IN WHICH THE DP WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE GOVERNMENT WHILE THE RPP GAVE ITS SUPPORT OUTSIDE (I.E., THE RPP WOULD ASSURE A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE BUT WOULD NOT BE IN THE CABINET). FROM THE RPP PERSPECTIVE, THIS FORMULATION COULD BE ATTRACTIVE BECAUSE IT WOULD GUARANTEE ELECTIONS THIS YEAR,
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PAGE 02 ANKARA 02017 121242Z

WHICH APPARENTLY WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE IF THE NATIONALIST

FRONT CAME TO POWER INSTAD. ALSO, THE RPP WOULD HAVE A MEASURE OF CONTROL OVER THE GOVERNMENT. THE DP, WEAKENED BY THE WAVE OF MENDERES-ERA OLD DEMOCRATS JOINING THE JP, COULD GAIN STRENGTH BY BEING IN THE GOVERNMENT, AND IT COULD TAKE A LARGE SHARE OF THE CREDIT FOR HAVING ENDED THE GOVERNMENT CRISIS. NOTHER GAIN FOR THE DP WOULD BE THE ALLEVIATION OF INTERNAL PRESSURES TO ALIGN WITH THE DEMIREL-LED NATIONALIST FRONT.

3. FACTORS THAT MIGHT WORK AGAINST THIS ARRANGEMENT COULD INCLUDE: (1) RPP DISTRUST OF THE DP'S COMMITMENT TO EARLY ELECTIONS; (2) DP UNWILLINGNESS TO BE DEPENDENT UPON THE RPP'S SUPPORT; (3) THE BASIC FRAGILITY OF THE ARRANGEMENT.

4. IRMAK IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS APPARENTLY WILL EXPLORE THIS POSSIBLE SOLUTION. MILLIYET EDITOR ABDI IPEKCI, WHO FLOATED THE PROPOSAL IN HIS COLUMN MARCH 10 AND HAS STRONGLY SUPPORTED IT REPORTED MARCH 12 THAT THE PRESIDENT REGARDED IT WITH RESERVE. IRMAK HAS ANNOUNCED HE WILL ASK THE PRESIDENT TO BE RELIEVED OF THE RESPONSIBILITY OF FORMING A GOVERNMENT IF HIS PRESENT EFFORT IS NOT FRUITFUL.
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